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Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901 ** (201) 828-2210

fact sheet

# WOMEN IN THE U.S. CONGRESS 1988

In 1988, women hold a total of **25** seats in the U.S. Congress -- **2** in the Senate and **23** in the House of Representatives. Women hold **4.7%** of the **535** available seats in Congress -- **2.0%** of all Senate seats and **5.3%** of all House seats.

The two women currently serving in the Senate are **Nancy Landon Kassebaum** (R-KS), elected in 1978 and re-elected in 1984, and **Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD), elected in 1986.

The twenty-three women serving in the House of Representatives include 12 Democrats and 11 Republicans from seventeen states. They are:

**Helen Bentley**, R-MD
**Corinne (Lindy) Boggs**, D-LA
**Barbara Boxer**, D-CA
**Beverly Byron**, D-MD
**Cardiss Collins**, D-IL
**Nancy Johnson**, R-CT
**Marcy Kaptur**, D-OH
**Barbara Kennelly**, D-CT
**Marilyn Lloyd**, D-TN
**Lynn Martin**, R-IL
**Jan Meyers**, R-KS
**Constance Morella**, R-MD
**Mary Rose Oakar**, D-OH
**Elizabeth Patterson**, D-SC
**Nancy Pelosi**, D-CA
**Marge Roukema**, R-NJ
**Pat Saiki**, R-HI
**Claudine Schneider**, R-RI
**Patricia Schroeder**, D-CO
**Louise Slaughter**, D-NY
**Virginia Smith**, R-NE
**Olympia Snowe**, R-ME
**Barbara Vucanovich**, R-NV

**Sala Burton** (D-CA) was re-elected in 1986 but died in office; **Nancy Pelosi** (D-CA) was elected to fill Burton's seat in a special election held in June of 1987. Of the four Congresswomen who did not seek re-election to the House in 1986, two sought higher offices. Each of the four women newly elected to the House in the 1986 general election had previously served as a state legislator.

A total of **124** women have served in the U.S. Congress to date, including **16** in the Senate and **110** in the House. Two women -- **Margaret Chase Smith** (R-ME) and **Barbara Mikulski** (D-MD) -- have served in both the House and the Senate. Smith was first elected to the House to fill out her deceased husband's term in the 76th Congress. After serving in the House from 1940 to 1948, Smith was elected to the Senate where she served four terms. Mikulski, the first Democratic woman elected to the Senate without first filling out an unexpired term, served five terms in the House before winning her Senate seat. Both Smith and Mikulski had women opponents in Senate races and share the distinction of being the only women to serve on the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee.

The first woman elected to the House of Representatives was **Jeannette Rankin** (R-MT), who served from 1917 to 1919 and again from 1941 to 1942. The first woman to serve in the Senate was **Rebecca Latimer Felton** (D-GA), appointed in 1922; she served for only one day. **Nancy Landon Kassebaum** (R-KS) is the first woman to have been elected to the Senate without having previously filled an unexpired Congressional term.

**New York** has had more women in its congressional delegation than any other state -- a total of thirteen to date, all in the House. **California** has sent nine women to the House; **Illinois** has sent eight; **Maryland** has had seven; and **Connecticut, New Jersey**, and **South Carolina** have each had five women in their House delegations. Four states -- **Alabama, Louisiana, Nebraska**, and **South Dakota** -- have been represented twice by women in the Senate. Ten states have never sent a woman to either the House or the Senate.

Five black women and two Asian-American women have served in the House of Representatives; all but one have been Democrats. No woman of color has ever served in the Senate. The first black woman to serve in Congress was **Shirley Chisholm** (D-NY); elected in 1968, she served until 1983. Four other black women have served in the House: **Yvonne Braithwaite Burke** (D-CA, 1973-1979), **Barbara Jordan** (D-TX, 1973-1979), **Katie Hall** (D-IN, 1983-1985), and **Cardiss Collins** (D-IL). First elected in 1973, Collins is the only black woman currently serving in Congress. **Patsy Takemoto Mink** (D-HI), the first Asian-American woman to serve in the House, was elected in 1964 and served until 1977; **Pat Saiki** (R-HI), elected in 1986, is the second.

Seven women have chaired congressional committees -- Senator **Hattie Caraway** (D-AR), and Representatives **Martha Griffiths** (D-MI), **Mae Nolan** (R-CA), **Mary Norton** (D-NJ), **Caroline O'Day** (D-NY), **Edith Rogers** (R-MA), and **Leonor Sullivan** (D-MO). No woman has ever been Speaker of the House or Majority or Minority Leader of the Senate.

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In using data from our fact sheets, please credit the National Information Bank on Women in Public Office (NIB), a service of the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Additional information from Women in the United States Congress, Congressional Research Service, March 1987.

# WOMEN IN THE U.S. CONGRESS 1917-1988*

| CONGRESS | DATES | WOMEN IN HOUSE | WOMEN IN SENATE | TOTAL WOMEN |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 65th | 1917-1919 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 66th | 1919-1921 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 67th | 1921-1923 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 68th | 1923-1925 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 69th | 1925-1927 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 70th | 1927-1929 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 71st | 1929-1931 | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| 72nd | 1931-1933 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 73rd | 1933-1935 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 74th | 1935-1937 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 75th | 1937-1939 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 76th | 1939-1941 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 77th | 1941-1943 | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| 78th | 1943-1945 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 79th | 1945-1947 | 11 | 0 | 11 |
| 80th | 1947-1949 | 7 | 1 | 8 |
| 81st | 1949-1951 | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| 82nd | 1951-1953 | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| 83rd | 1953-1955 | 12 | 3 | 15 |
| 84th | 1955-1957 | 17 | 1 | 18 |
| 85th | 1957-1959 | 15 | 1 | 16 |
| 86th | 1959-1961 | 17 | 2 | 19 |
| 87th | 1961-1963 | 18 | 2 | 20 |
| 88th | 1963-1965 | 12 | 2 | 14 |
| 89th | 1965-1967 | 11 | 2 | 13 |
| 90th | 1967-1969 | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| 91st | 1969-1971 | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| 92nd | 1971-1973 | 13 | 2 | 15 |
| 93rd | 1973-1975 | 16 | 0 | 16 |
| 94th | 1975-1977 | 19 | 0 | 19 |
| 95th | 1977-1979 | 18 | 2 | 20 |
| 96th | 1979-1981 | 16 | 1 | 17 |
| 97th | 1981-1983 | 21 | 2 | 23 |
| 98th | 1983-1985 | 22 | 2 | 24 |
| 99th | 1985-1987 | 23 | 2 | 25 |
| 100th | 1987-1989 | 23 | 2 | 25 |

*Table shows maximum number of women elected or appointed to serve in that Congress at one time. Some filled out unexpired terms; some were never sworn in.

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# WOMEN IN ELECTIVE OFFICE 1988

In 1988, twenty-five women are serving in Congress. Two states have elected women governors and in one state a woman serves as acting governor. The number of women in state legislatures is almost four times larger than it was fifteen years ago. But women still hold only a small minority of elective offices; at no level of office do women hold more than 15.8% of the available positions. The total number of women in elective offices in 1988 is estimated to exceed 18,000.[1]

## U.S. CONGRESS

Women hold 25, or 4.7%, of the 535 seats in the 100th U.S. Congress in 1988. Two women serve in the **U.S. Senate**:

**Nancy Landon Kassebaum**, R-KS
**Barbara Mikulski**, D-MD

Twenty-three women serve in the **U.S. House of Representatives** including twelve Democrats and eleven Republicans from seventeen states. They are:

**Helen Bentley**, R-MD
**Corinne (Lindy) Boggs**, D-LA
**Barbara Boxer**, D-CA
**Beverly Byron**, D-MD
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**Nancy Pelosi**, D-CA
**Marge Roukema**, R-NJ
**Pat Saiki**, R-HI
**Claudine Schneider**, R-RI
**Patricia Schroeder**, D-CO
**Louise Slaughter**, D-NY
**Virginia Smith**, R-NE
**Olympia Snowe**, R-ME
**Barbara Vucanovich**, R-NV

## STATEWIDE ELECTIVE EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Women hold 41, or 12.7%, of the 322 statewide elective executive positions in 1988.[2]

Two women serve as **governors**: **Madeleine Kunin**, a Vermont Democrat elected in 1984 and re-elected in 1986; and **Kay A. Orr**, a Nebraska Republican elected in 1986. Orr is the first Republican woman elected governor of any state. In addition, following the impeachment of Arizona's Governor Evan Mecham, **Rose Mofford** (D), the elected secretary of state, is currently serving as **acting governor**.

Five women serve as **lieutenant governors** in 1988. They are **Martha Griffiths** (D-MI), **Marlene Johnson** (DFL-MN), **Harriett Woods** (D-MO), **Evelyn Murphy** (D-MA), and **Jo Ann Zimmerman** (D-IA).

**Mary Sue Terry** (D-VA), elected **attorney general** of Virginia in 1985, is the second woman ever elected to that post in any state.

Twelve women serve as elected **secretaries of state**; they serve in Arizona[3], California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Women hold statewide elected **state treasurer** positions in nine states: Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Ohio, and Texas.

Five states -- Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri, and Montana -- have women **state auditors**. In Arizona and Wyoming women serve as **superintendents of public instruction** and in Florida the **commissioner of education** is a woman. In Arizona and Oklahoma one of the **corporation commissioners** is a woman, and in Oregon a woman serves as the **commissioner of the bureau of labor and industries**.

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[1]Offices included in these figures are: U.S. Congress, statewide elective executive offices, state legislatures, county governing boards, mayoralties, and municipal and township governing boards.

[2]These numbers do not include: officials appointed to state cabinet-level positions; officials elected to executive posts by the legislature; members of the judicial branch; or elected members of university Boards of Trustees or Boards of Education.

[3]Karen Osborne is serving as Arizona's acting secretary of state during Mofford's tenure as acting governor.

In using data from our fact sheets, please credit the National Information Bank on Women in Public Office (NIB), a service of the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Additional information from the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

## STATE LEGISLATURES

In 1988, 1175, or 15.8%, of the 7461 state legislators in the United States are women. Women hold 227 state senate seats and 948 state house seats in 1988. The number of women serving in state legislatures has almost quadrupled since 1969, when 301, or 4%, of all state legislators were women.

In 1988, the ten states with the highest percentages of women state legislators are:

| State | % Women | State | % Women |
|---|---|---|---|
| New Hampshire | 32.6 | Arizona | 23.3 |
| Maine | 28.5 | Wyoming | 22.3 |
| Colorado | 28.0 | Idaho | 21.4 |
| Vermont | 25.6 | Connecticut | 21.4 |
| Washington | 25.2 | Wisconsin | 21.2 |

## COUNTY GOVERNING BOARDS

In 1987, in the 47 states which have county governing boards, women hold 1594, or 8.6%, of the 18,474 available seats across the country.[1] Between 1975 and 1987, the number of women serving at the county governing board level more than tripled, rising from 456 in 1975, to 1594 in 1987.

## MUNICIPAL OFFICES

In 1988, among the 100 largest cities in the U.S., eleven have women mayors; three of these women mayors are in cities among the ten largest. In order of city population, the mayors are: **Kathy Whitmire** (Houston, TX - 4th largest city); **Annette Strauss** (Dallas, TX - 7th); **Maureen O'Connor** (San Diego, CA - 8th); **Donna Owens** (Toledo, OH - 44th); **Sue Myrick** (Charlotte, NC - 47th); **Anne Rudin** (Sacramento, CA - 50th); **Sandra Freedman** (Tampa, FL - 55th); **Betty Turner** (Corpus Christi, TX - 58th); **Vicki McNeill** (Spokane, WA - 88th); **Barbara Fass** (Stockton, CA - 89th); and **Lottie Shackelford** (Little Rock, AR - 91st).

The U.S. Conference of Mayors, whose members include most mayors of U.S. cities with populations over 30,000, reports that 102, or 11.6%, of its 881 members are women in 1988.

In 1985, in the states for which data are available, women held 14,672, or 14.3%, of the 102,329 elective positions at the municipal and township level.[2] The percentage of women holding municipal and township offices more than tripled from 1975 to 1985, rising from 4% to 14.3%.

## PERCENTAGES OF WOMEN IN ELECTIVE OFFICES

| Level of Office | 1975 | 1977 | 1979 | 1981 | 1983 | 1985 | 1987 | 1988 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| U.S. Congress | 4% | 4% | 3% | 4% | 4% | 5% | 5% | 5% |
| Statewide Elective | 10% | 8% | 11% | 11% | 13% | 14% | 15% | 13%+ |
| State Legislatures | 8% | 9% | 10% | 12% | 13% | 15% | 16% | 16% |
| County Governing Boards[1] | 3% | 4% | 5% | 6% | 8% | 8%(1984) | 9% | NA |
| Mayors & Municipal/Township Governing Boards | 4% | 8% | 10% | 10% | NA[3] | 14%[2] | NA[3] | NA[3] |

+The percentage decrease between 1987 and 1988 reflects both a change in actual numbers (43 women serving in 1987 as compared to 41 in 1988) and a change in the base used to calculate this percentage (from 295 to 322).

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[1]The three states without county governing boards are CT, RI, and VT.

[2]States for which data are incomplete are: IL, IN, KY, MO, PA, WI.

[3]CAWP currently updates municipal figures every four years.

2/23/88

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# WOMEN IN STATE LEGISLATURES 1988

In 1988 women hold **15.8%** of all seats in state legislatures. **1175** of the 7461 state legislators serving in 1988 are women. Women hold 227, or 11.4%, of the 1995 state senate seats and 948, or 17.3%, of the 5466 state house or assembly seats. Since 1969, the number of women serving in state legislatures has almost quadrupled.

| Year | Women Legislators | % of Total Legislators |
|---|---|---|
| 1969 | 301 | 4.0 |
| 1971 | 344 | 4.5 |
| 1973 | 424 | 5.6 |
| 1975 | 604 | 8.0 |
| 1977 | 688 | 9.1 |
| 1979 | 770 | 10.3 |
| 1981 | 908 | 12.1 |
| 1983 | 991 | 13.3 |
| 1985 | 1103 | 14.8 |
| 1987 | 1170 | 15.7 |
| **1988** | **1175** | **15.8** |

The **party breakdown** for women serving in state legislatures in 1988 is 684 Democrats (58%), and 482 Republicans (41%). The Nebraska legislature is unicameral and legislators are elected on a nonpartisan basis; 9 women serve in the Nebraska Senate. The party breakdown in state senates is 131 Democrats (58%), and 87 Republicans (38%). The party breakdown in state houses is 553 Democrats (58%), and 395 Republicans (42%).

The ten states with the **highest percentages** of women state legislators are:

| State | % Women | State | % Women |
|---|---|---|---|
| New Hampshire | 32.6 | Arizona | 23.3 |
| Maine | 28.5 | Wyoming | 22.3 |
| Colorado | 28.0 | Idaho | 21.4 |
| Vermont | 25.6 | Connecticut | 21.4 |
| Washington | 25.2 | Wisconsin | 21.2 |

The ten states with the **lowest percentages** of women state legislators are:

| State | % Women | State | % Women |
|---|---|---|---|
| Louisiana | 3.5 | Pennsylvania | 6.7 |
| Alabama | 5.7 | South Carolina | 7.1 |
| Mississippi | 5.7 | Utah | 7.7 |
| Kentucky | 5.8 | Oklahoma | 8.7 |
| Arkansas | 6.7 | Tennessee | 9.1 |

Every state has at least five women in its state house, but only one state (Louisiana) has no women in its state senate.

The latest Joint Center for Political Studies and CAWP figures show that 97 **Black women** serve in state legislatures. There are 21 senators and 76 representatives serving in 30 states; all are Democrats.

According to the Office of Vice Chair Polly Baca at the Democratic National Committee, 13 **Hispanic women** serve in state legislatures. There are 3 senators and 10 representatives serving in seven states; 10 are Democrats and 3 are Republicans. **Asian-Pacific American women** hold 14 seats in state legislatures. There are 6 senators and 8 representatives serving in 3 states; 10 are Democrats and 4 are Republicans. **Native American women** hold 6 seats in state legislatures. There are 2 senators and 4 representatives serving in 4 states; 5 are Democrats and 1 is a Republican.

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In using data from our fact sheets, please credit the National Information Bank on Women in Public Office (NIB), a service of the Center for the American Woman and Politics (CAWP), Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University.

2/24/88

| STATE | STATE RANK | STATE SENATE D | STATE SENATE R | TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL SENATE | STATE HOUSE D | STATE HOUSE R | TOTAL/WOMEN TOTAL HOUSE | TOTAL WOMEN/ TOTAL LEGIS. | % OF WOMEN OVERALL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AL | 49 | 0 | 1 | 1/35 | 7 | 0 | 7/105 | 8/140 | 5.7 |
| AK | 14+ | 1 | 2 | 3/20 | 5 | 4 | 9/ 40 | 12/ 60 | 20.0 |
| AZ | 6 | 2 | 4 | 6/30 | 6 | 9 | 15/ 60 | 21/ 90 | 23.3 |
| AR | 46 | 1 | 0 | 1/35 | 7 | 1 | 8/100 | 9/135 | 6.7 |
| CA | 30 | 2 | 2 | 4/40 | 8 | 5 | 13/ 80 | 17/120 | 14.2 |
| CO | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3/35 | 7 | 18 | 25/ 65 | 28/100 | 28.0 |
| CT | 9 | 4 | 2 | 6/36 | 19 | 15 | 34/151 | 40/187 | 21.4 |
| DE | 21 | 2 | 2 | 4/21 | 2 | 4 | 6/ 41 | 10/ 62 | 16.1 |
| FL | 13 | 6 | 4 | 10/40 | 13 | 10 | 23/120 | 33/160 | 20.6 |
| GA | 35 | 1 | 1 | 2/56 | 19 | 5 | 24/180 | 26/236 | 11.0 |
| HI | 11 | 4 | 3 | 7/25 | 7 | 2 | 9/ 51 | 16/ 76 | 21.1 |
| ID | 8 | 5 | 2 | 7/42 | 6 | 14 | 20/ 84 | 27/126 | 21.4 |
| IL | 19 | 6 | 6 | 12/59 | 9 | 11 | 20/118 | 32/177 | 18.1 |
| IN | 32 | 5 | 3 | 8/50 | 5 | 6 | 11/100 | 19/150 | 12.7 |
| IA | 29 | 2 | 2 | 4/50 | 11 | 7 | 18/100 | 22/150 | 14.7 |
| KS | 16 | 2 | 3 | 5/40 | 12 | 14 | 26/125 | 31/165 | 18.8 |
| KY | 47 | 2 | 0 | 2/38 | 3 | 3 | 6/100 | 8/138 | 5.8 |
| LA | 50 | 0 | 0 | 0/39 | 5 | 0 | 5/105 | 5/144 | 3.5 |
| ME | 2 | 4 | 6 | 10/35 | 24 | 19 | 43/151 | 53/186 | 28.5 |
| MD | 12 | 6 | 0 | 6/47 | 29 | 4 | 33/141 | 39/188 | 20.7 |
| MA | 17 | 5 | 1 | 6/40 | 22 | 9 | 31/160 | 37/200 | 18.5 |
| MI | 28 | 1 | 1 | 2/38 | 14 | 6 | 20/110 | 22/148 | 14.9 |
| MN | 26 | 6 | 3 | 9/67 | 15 | 7 | 22/134 | 31/201 | 15.4 |
| MS | 48 | 2 | 1 | 3/52 | 7 | 0 | 7/122 | 10/174 | 5.7 |
| MO | 24 | 1 | 1 | 2/34 | 22 | 7 | 29/163 | 31/197 | 15.7 |
| MT | 27 | 5 | 1 | 6/50 | 13 | 4 | 17/100 | 23/150 | 15.3 |
| NE | 18 | NONPARTISAN | | 9/49 | | UNICAMERAL | | 9/ 49 | 18.4 |
| NV | 23 | 0 | 2 | 2/21 | 6 | 2 | 8/ 42 | 10/ 63 | 15.9 |
| NH | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8/24 | 50 | 80 | 130/400 | 138/424 | 32.6 |
| NJ | 40 | 2 | 1 | 3/40 | 2 | 6 | 8/ 80 | 11/120 | 9.2 |
| NM | 38 | 0 | 2 | 2/42 | 4 | 5 | 9/ 70 | 11/112 | 9.8 |
| NY | 37 | 4 | 1 | 5/61 | 14 | 2 | 16/150 | 21/211 | 10.0 |
| NC | 31 | 4 | 0 | 4/50 | 13 | 7 | 20/120 | 24/170 | 14.1 |
| ND | 33 | 3 | 1 | 4/53 | 8 | 8 | 16/106 | 20/159 | 12.6 |
| OH | 34 | 1 | 1 | 2/33 | 9 | 4 | 13/ 99 | 15/132 | 11.4 |
| OK | 42 | 4 | 2 | 6/48 | 6 | 1 | 7/101 | 13/149 | 8.7 |
| OR | 20 | 4 | 1 | 5/30 | 7 | 3 | 10/ 60 | 15/ 90 | 16.7 |
| PA | 45 | 2 | 0 | 2/50 | 6 | 9 | 15/203 | 17/253 | 6.7 |
| RI | 22 | 5 | 5 | 10/50 | 10 | 4 | 14/100 | 24/150 | 16.0 |
| SC | 44 | 1 | 1 | 2/46 | 8 | 2 | 10/124 | 12/170 | 7.1 |
| SD | 14+ | 3 | 2 | 5/35 | 5 | 11 | 16/ 70 | 21/105 | 20.0 |
| TN | 41 | 1 | 0 | 1/33 | 5 | 6 | 11/ 99 | 12/132 | 9.1 |
| TX | 39 | 2 | 1 | 3/31 | 10 | 4 | 14/150 | 17/181 | 9.4 |
| UT | 43 | 1 | 0 | 1/29 | 3 | 4 | 7/ 75 | 8/104 | 7.7 |
| VT | 4 | 3 | 0 | 3/30 | 23 | 20 | 43/150 | 46/180 | 25.6 |
| VA | 36 | 2 | 1 | 3/40 | 9 | 2 | 11/100 | 14/140 | 10.0 |
| WA | 5 | 4 | 4 | 8/49 | 19 | 10 | 29/ 98 | 37/147 | 25.2 |
| WV | 25 | 2 | 1 | 3/34 | 17 | 1 | 18/100 | 21/134 | 15.7 |
| WI | 10 | 1 | 3 | 4/33 | 14 | 10 | 24/ 99 | 28/132 | 21.2 |
| WY | 7 | 3 | 0 | 3/30 | 8 | 10 | 18/ 64 | 21/ 94 | 22.3 |
| TOTALS | | 131 (9 nonpartisan) | 87 | 227/1995 | 553 | 395 | 948/5466 | 1175/7461 | 15.8 |

+States with same percentage are given same rank.

2/24/88